CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT COMMISSION AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(recommended by the co-Chairmen)

The Conference of the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament transmits to the United Nations Disarmament Commission and to the General Assembly, a report on the Committee's deliberations on all questions before it for the period 27 July 1965 to 16 September 1965.

Representatives of the following States continued their participation in the work of the Committee:

Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

I. Procedural Arrangements

A. Upon recommendation of the Co-Chairmen, members of the Committee reconvened the Conference on 27 July 1965.

B. Sixteen plenary meetings took place between 27 July 1965 and 16 September 1965.

C. The Committee at its _____ meeting on _____ September 1965, having in view the convening of the Twentieth Session of the General Assembly on 21 September 1965, decided to adjourn this session of the Conference following its plenary meeting on 16 September 1965. The Committee decided to resume its meetings in Geneva as soon as possible after the termination of the consideration of disarmament at the Twentieth Session of the General Assembly, on a date to be decided by the two Co-Chairmen after consultation with the members of the Committee.

II. General and Complete Disarmament

Members of the Committee have continued discussion of general and complete disarmament in meetings of the Committee. The Committee considers it to be a primary goal of its future work to continue efforts to develop a treaty on general and complete disarmament under effective international control. However, in view of present international developments, a number of members concentrated their attention at this session of the Conference on collateral measures.

III. Measures Aimed at the Lessening of International Tension, the Consolidation of Confidence Among States, and Facilitating General and Complete Disarmament

The Committee, in its efforts to achieve and implement the widest possible agreement at the earliest possible date, continued consideration in its plenary meetings of such measures as could be agreed to prior to, and as would facilitate the achievement of, general and complete disarmament.

On 26 July 1965 the Co-chairmen received a letter (ENDC/149) from the Chairman of the Disarmament Commission transmitting to the Committee document DC/224, addressed to the United Nations General Assembly and containing the text of the resolution adopted by the Disarmament Commission on 12 June 1965 on the question of a world disarmament conference, and document DC/225, containing the text of the resolution adopted by the Disarmament Commission on 15 June 1965 which made certain specific recommendations to the Committee.

On 27 July 1965, at the 218th meeting, the United States submitted a message from President Lyndon B. Johnson to the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENDC/150).

On 29 July 1965, at the 219th meeting, the United Kingdom representative read a message to the Conference from Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

On 5 August 1965, at the 221st meeting, the Committee issued a statement on the second anniversary of the signing of the limited test ban treaty in Moscow which stated that the Committee considered more urgent than ever further progress on disarmament measures.

On 10 August 1965 a letter was submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics representative to the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations (ENDC/151).

On 17 August 1965, at the 224th meeting, the United States, supported by the delegations of Canada, Italy, and the United Kingdom, submitted a draft treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons (ENDC/152)* and a statement by President Lyndon B. Johnson on this draft treaty (ENDC/153).

On 2 September 1965, at the 229th meeting, Sweden submitted a memorandum on international co-operation for the detection of underground explosions (ENDC/154)*.

On 9 September 1965, at the 231st meeting, the United Kingdom submitted notes on United Kingdom research on techniques for distinguishing between earthquakes and underground explosions (ENDC/155)*.

[References to possible additional memoranda or documents would be made at this point in the report]

As at past sessions, the questions before the Committee were in general discussed in a thorough manner. All the participants in the Committee took an active part in this discussion, and a number of interesting suggestions were put forward. The Soviet Union stated its readiness to meet the position taken by the United Arab Republic and to agree to its proposal that the implementation of the Moscow Treaty relating to the banning of tests of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water should be extended to cover under-ground nuclear tests above a seismic magnitude of 4.75, and that as an additional measure the nuclear Powers should agree to a moratorium on all other forms of under-ground nuclear testing until such time as agreement had been reached on an overall ban on nuclear weapons tests. The United States reiterated its readiness to conclude an adequately verified comprehensive test ban treaty and in this regard emphasized the desirability of an exchange of scientific information among nuclear powers as suggested by the eight non-aligned states in document ENDC/145.

The Committee did not reach any specific agreement at this session either on questions of general and complete disarmament or on measures aimed at the lessening of international tension. However, the members of the Committee believe that the

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* Indicates Conference documents which are attached at Annex 1.

extensive discussions on major problems relating to certain collateral measures were particularly valuable in clarifying the respective points of views of member governments. The Committee believes that these discussions and exchanges of views may facilitate agreement in the further work of the Committee.

IV. Meetings of the Co-chairmen

During the period covered by this report, the Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the United States of America, in their capacity as Co-Chairmen of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament, held meetings to discuss the schedule of and procedure for the work of the Conference and certain substantive questions before the Conference.

V. Conference Documents

Transmitted as Annex II to this report is a list of all documents and verbatim records of the plenary meetings.

This report is submitted by the Co-chairmen on behalf of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

S. K. Tsarapkin

United States of America

William C. Foster